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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 7 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Yelgava Airfield

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1. The Yelgava (56°40'N/23°42'E) airfield, Latvian S.S.R., is located about 1½ km northwest of the market square of the town, just west of a river. The field measured about 2 x 1 km and had a grass cover. Two log cabins, one of which was fitted with a rod antenna, were located on the southern edge of the field.
2. The field was occupied by about 12 twin-engine aircraft with single tail assembly similar to the German He 111, about eight single-engine biplanes, and an undetermined number of single-engine, low-wing monoplanes.
3. Aircraft were observed practicing firing at a towed air target north of the field.
4. The airfield is located on the northwestern border of the town. Trucks occupied by air force soldiers were seen proceeding to and from the airfield almost daily.
5. There was much flying with:
 - a. Single-engine fighters fitted with in-line engine and retractable landing gear, about the size of the Me 109 but somewhat stubbier and not quite so fast. These planes flew in formations of up to 15 in firing at towed air targets.
 - b. Single-engine ground attack planes fitted with in-line engine. These planes flew individually or in formations of up to 15.
 - c. Biplanes from which individual parachute jumps with two parachutes were practiced.

The maximum number of aircraft observed aloft at the same time was 50 to 60, the majority of them being fighters.

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